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Kabuki Play

"UKINA-TATSUMI-KOITO-SASHICHI"  
(The Romance of Koito & Sashichi)

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C.C.D. J-2046  
30/7/47  


Two Acts

Written by: SHINICHI IWAYA

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TO BE PRESENTED BY ENNOSUKE TROUPE AT THE TOKYO THEATER  
FROM AUGUST 7th TO AUGUST , 1947.

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UKINA TATSUMI KOITO SASHICHI  
(The Romance of Koito and Sashichi)

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Synopsis:

Koito, a geisha-girl of Fukagawa, had always been wooed by Yamazumi Goheita who offered to secure her liberty by power of money though she had thought him a disgusting guest. One day she was being troubled by Goheita and his henchmen as usual when Sashichi, a fireman, happened to be there and being unable to remain a mere spectator, he offered mediation.

As a makeshift measure, he pretended to be her lover, but was expected to become her real lover.

Although Sashichi was then a fireman, he was born as a son of Ishizuka Yonobe, a retainer of Akagi. As for his father Yonobe, he incurred his master's displeasure because the fancy paper which he had received in trust from his master was lost.

Meanwhile, Honjo Tsunagoro who had been looked after by Yonobe since he was in a humble position of life and was promoted to a page chanced to meet Sashichi during the investigation and driving away Goheita and his henchmen, told him of his father's trouble.

Thereupon Koito was resolved to aid in the investigation of the fancy paper.

Since then Koito had been left with Yasunoya and looking forward to becoming Sashichi's wife formally. On the other hand, Tsunagoro called on Koito and told her that the fancy paper might be in Goheita's hands, so she hit on a device that she would pretend to obey Goheita and get back the fancy paper from him, taking advantage of the fact that Goheita had made advances to her even after the event.

Thereupon Goheita visited her, so she intentionally said unpleasant things to Sashichi who had called on her after a long absence and started for the villa at Susaki. Meanwhile, the purse which Goheita had dropped was found out at the Yasunoya's through many people's hands and from the paper in the purse it was made known that the fancy paper had been in the hands of Goheita.

Koito hastened to Susaki in a palanquin, but Sashichi stopped the palanquin and spoke resentfully to her. Although Koito told Sashichi of the profound reason, Sashichi would not listen to her.

Thereupon due to Yasunoya's notice Tsunagoro came hurriedly there, so the particulars were made known to Sashichi and both Koichi and Sashichi started for the House of Ishizuka happily.



Dramatis Personae:

Fireman Sashichi

Geisha-Girl Koito

Honjo Tsunagoro

Yamazumi Goheita

Yasunoya Jube

Spy Gisuke

Sakaharaya's Clerk Kinroku

Jube's Wife Orai

Matsumoto's Wife Otsuta

Matsumoto's Waitress Omaki

Professional Jester Tasuke

Wrestler Zungiri

Fireman Gon

" Hachi

Clerk Iwamatsu

Palanquin-Bearers

----- The End -----

----- FIRST ACT -----

(1) Scene Outside the Shrine-Entrance of the  
Hachiman Shrine, Fukagawa

(If impossible, a black curtain or a light blue  
one would answer the purpose just the same. As a way of  
execution, it would also be desirable to use the apron stage  
or proscenium.)

With the sound of wooden-clappers, sacred music and dance  
as well as a street singer's song, the curtain rises.

Yamazumi Goheita, a retainer of the House of Akagi  
taking Gisuke, a spy, with him comes out talking with  
Sakaharaya's Clerk Kinroku.

Gisuke: I've thought it is the chief clerk that has been  
stuck on Koito, though.

Gohei: In fact, it's I. I'll tell you the reason.

Although I'm stuck on Koito, I'm afraid I shan't  
be able to persuade her of it, so first of all

I'll let Itoya's clerk make love to her on my  
behalf and if she consents to it, I'll ransom her  
right away. If I could take her in my hands, I  
should be able to win her heart, because it's I  
that love her. However, should I fail in doing so,  
I should become desperate; I'll ransom her by all  
means.

Kinroku, have you brought two hundred "ryo" accord-  
ing to our promise?



Kinroku: Of course I have. (Takes out the money.)

Here is two hundred "ryo".

And what will you pawn for the money?

Gohei: Well, this is Ogura's fancy paper which could be rarely found in this world; you mustn't handle it carelessly. (Takes the paper out of his pocket and hands it to Kinroku.)

Kinroku: I've promised you that in case of taking such an article in pledge I need a paper about it, so have you put it in writing?

Gohei: Oh, I've written on a paper that since I possess the Ogura's fancy paper, nobody will object to my giving it in pawn. You see, this is my handwriting. (Takes out the paper and shows it to Kinroku.)

Kinroku: I see. This will do.

(Takes the fancy paper and hands him two hundred "ryo". Kinroku puts the written paper in his purse. Goheita takes up the money with joy.)

Gohei: Oh, boy!

Now, I'll be able to ransom Koito with this money.

Gi: Well, then, let's go to Matsumoto right away. (With the parting words, the three men leave. When the sound of the musical instruments dies away, the stage-settings are arranged.)

(2) The main stage is composed of a room in front. Over there are the alcove and screens. To the left is seen a semi-detached room with the paper sliding-doors. Meanwhile, there are seen a flower-bed, a hedge and a wash-hand stand in front to the left; there are also seen a gate made of sedges, a fence in the fashion of the Kenninji Temple and a paper-framed night-light with the characters "Nikenjaya Matsumoto" written on it.

Here Fireman Sashichi is drinking crude rice-wine while Wrestler Zungiri and the other firemen are drinking rice-wine. Otsuta, mistress of the Matsumoto, is serving them with rice wine. The firemen who have become naked are wrestling.

Zungiri wrestles with Gon and Hachi, the firemen and after an interesting scuffle, throws them down.

Otsuta: You've won the wrestling match, Zungiri, Zungiri.

Sashichi: Well, I'm afraid I shall have to give all my clothes to him. (Throws his short quilted coat and leather Japanese coat to Zungiri.)

Otsuta: Ladies and gentlemen, a certain personage will give the congratulatory gifts to Zungiri.

Gon: I'm sorry we are no match for the professional wrestler.

Hachi: How vexatious!

Zungiri: I'm glad to have the short quilted coat and leather Japanese coat, but I've done so only in joke, so I'll give these back to you.



Sashichi: Even if you've done so in joke, I cannot take back the things I've once given to a wrestler.

Zungiri: Well, then, will you really give them to me?

Sashichi: I'm a Yedo man to my finger-tips; I think it to have eaten the first bonito.

Gon, I can't go about naked. Go to Naka-cho and buy old clothes with this money. (Gives Gon a packet of money.)

Gon: Excuse me, but old clothes are disagreeable to put on, I think.

I would rather give this money to the cook Matsu as a gratuity and borrow his clothes from him for you.

Sashichi: Well, then, do so, please.

Otsuta: Now you must be cold with no clothes on; you'd better put on this rather than ill-fitting borrowed clothes. (Brings a pyjamas from within a sliding-screen and help him on with it.)

Sashichi: Darn it!

How silly you are!

Hachi: (Sneezes) I've become cold owing to the wrestling bout.

Otsuta: The bath is ready; please take a bath.

Gon: Well, let's go and warm ourselves there.

Zungiri: Sashichi-san, thank you very much.

(With music entitled "Tsukuda", Zungiri and the two men holding the clothes in their arms leave



for the interior.)

Sashichi: Ha, ha, ha!

It's an ill wind that blows nobody good.

Otsuta: Ha, ha, ha!

(Just then in the interior Koito's shriek is heard.)

Koito's Voice: I'm sick of hearing such a thing. Please don't say such a thing any more.

(Thereupon Sashichi leaves for the right.

Otsuta partitions off the room with the screen.

With a musical accompaniment, from the interior comes out Koito angrily, followed by Gisuke, Kinroku and Waitress Omaki soothing her. Following them, Goheita comes out.)

Kinroku: If you dislike it, Koito-san, pay off your debts to me, please.

Gi: Oh, you talk big. If you're such a fine geisha-girl, you ought to pay back four "ryo" and two "bu" --- I mean the tip I gave the boatman at Tamamatsu for you and the gratuities I gave to the women of Kumamoto for you the other day --- and you can say as you like.

Kin: Well, you remember the amount of money -- from the interest on the thing in pawn to the bond on the borrowed fancy-goods. I mean Gisuke's and mine.

Gi: You ought to clear off your debts and speak up.

Koito: Well, the money -----

Kinroku: Do you mean to say that you have no money?

Gohei: If you haven't, you'd better consent to my wish and pay off your debts. Well, you should think deeply before you keep your pride.

Koito: Hah? (Seems to be lost in thought.)

Sashichi: Otsuta-san, Otsuta-san.

Otsuta: Yes, yes. (Goes up to Sashichi.)

Sashichi: What's the trouble there?

Otsuta: I'm afraid I don't know.

Sashichi: From what I've overheard, it's a matter of loan, I think. Poor thing! She's a mere geisha-girl. I should like to mediate the quarrel, but sorry to say I haven't a red cent with me.

Indeed the poor are inferior to the dead.

Otsuta: Sure thing!

The world is hard to us. Won't you have a drink?

(Pours rice-wine in his cup.)

Gohei: Hey, Gisuke, here is the money.

Gisuke: (Receives the money.)

Here is two hundred "ryo". If you only agree to his offer, he'll ransom you right away when you'll be able to pay off your debts and escape from the life of shame and then live in luxury without any care.



Koito: I'll never consent to such a proposal.

Gohei: Won't you, eh? (Exchanges glances with Gisuke.)

Koito: Well, I'm resigned to my fate and I prefer the hardships and privations as a geisha-girl.

Gisuke: Well, then, you'll never be able to raise the money, I should say.

Onaki: Say, Koito-san, you'd better yield to an authority.

Gisuke: That's right.

As Onaki-don says, you ought to yield to an authority.

Koito: Oh, no, I won't agree to it.

Kinroku: Say, Koito-san, if you insist on saying such a thing, everything you have will be mine --- from your hairpin to your skirt.

Koito: Huh?

Gohei: Darn it! Now I hate her instead of loving her.

Kinroku & Gisuke: Now shall we strip her of her clothes?

(Both of them attack Koito. Otsuta stands between them and goes to the left from the screen.)

Otsuta: Say, Kinroku-san may have his opinion of it, but Gisuke-san, you're a secret agent and always owe us a great deal, so you ought to think better of it.

Gisuke: Well, well, I shall lose if I take sides with such a girl.

Kinroku: However, since you've offered mediation, are you going to pay us the money for Koito-san?

Otsuta: Well, I'm afraid I can't.

Both: If you can't, don't stand in our way.

Otsuta: Well! (Seems to be in deep thought.)

Sashichi: Otsuta-san, Otsuta-san.

Otsuta: Yes, yes. (Comes up to Sashichi.)

Sashichi: I'm sorry I've no money.

Otsuta: Exactly so. I feel vexatious.

Gohei: It's silly of her not to take the money before her.

Gisuke: It's just like drowning herself with a stone.

Kinroku: What a silly woman she is!

Koito: It's foolish of you to think that you can win a geisha-girl's heart by threatening words or by power of money. You ought to wash yourselves in the Shimizu River and make advances to a geisha-girl in an elegant manner. I've resigned myself to the life of shame and it's an honor of a geisha-girl for me to keep my pride with a "shamisen" (a three strnged Japanese guitar.) If you want even my hairpins or skirt, you may take them. Even if I dress my hair with a straw, I'll keep my pure heart. (Takes off her comb and other decorations and throw those things at them.)

Kinroku: Now it can't be helped. (Stands up and strips Koito's clothes and sash of her except for her long skirt.)

Gisuke: Ha, ha, ha! Do you still think you're a A1 geisha-girl in such a condition?



Kinroku: Serve you right!

(A quiet sacred dance and music starts to the accompaniment of a "shamisen".

Being unable to remain a mere spectator, Sashichi takes off the pyjamaa and puts it on Koito from her back. Koito looks at him.)

Koito: Who are you, eh?

Sashichi: Me?

I'm a guy named Omatsuri (Festival) Sashichi.

I've been overhearing you and wanted to jump out, but since you are a woman, I was afraid I might be mistaken, so I hesitated to jump out.

However, they are too cruel. Now, will you try to strip this pyjama I've put on her?

If so, in a twinkling a dance with a sword will start. The kitchen-knife and pyjamaa will bring the grudge of the mattress against you.

(Ties a towel around his head and squats down.)

All: (Feel weird.)

Koito: Thank you very much, Sashichi-san.

I'm afraid you don't know, but I've already loved you inwardly because of your chivalrous spirit and gentlemanship. I wish I had a lover.

If I have, no disgusting man will make love to me, I should think. What do you say, Sashichi-san?

Sashichi: If you want to have a lover so much, you'd better have one at Sembomatsu.

You are mistaken, I should say.

Koito: Don't irritate me.

Sashichi: I don't mean to irritate you.

Koito: I think you feel cold.

Sashichi: Don't worry! I'm accustomed to be naked.

When I'm engaged in public works, I strip myself starknaked even in the cold weather. I prefer being lightly clothed when I fight or drink rice-wine.

Otsuta: Well, you've come out to mend the quarrel, so if you catch cold, I'll be sorry. Till they fetch clothes for you. Well, Koito-san is wearing Sashichi-san's clothes. Sashichi-san, you'd better share the pyjamas with her.

Sashichi: Do you mean to say that both she and I shall have to wear the same pyjamas together?

Omaki: The bath-room is crowded with people, so till they bring clothes for you, you'd better stay in this shop.

Kinroku: Here, here, it's too unkind of you.

Gisuke: The pyjamas, eh?

Sashichi: Do you feel unpleasant? I take pleasure in things others hate.

Well, then, Otsuta-san, I'll take my share in it.

Koito: I'm glad to hear it.

Sashichi: I feel chilly. Excuse me. (Shares the pyjamas Koito wears.)



Gohei: How vexatious! Now that it has come to such a pretty pass, I'll kill that guy. (Rises to his feet.)

Gisuke: Excuse me, Goheita-san, but haste makes waste. Especially he's a daredevil guy. (After consideration) Well, well, you'd better put up with it/ now. Take it easy! I know how to turn the trick.

Gohei: Oh, no, I'm afraid the trick won't be successful.

Kinroku: I guess Koito and Sashichi have already become -----

Gohei: Real lovers.

Sashichi: I'll become her lover.

This sounds interesting. Koito-san, no, Koito, I'm your lover, you see.

Koito: I'll admit you're my lover. Now I'll light tobacco for you like this. (Takes her hand out of one sleeve of the pyjamas and lighting tobacco in the pipe, offers it.

Sashichi takes his hand out of the other sleeve and taking the pipe puffs at the pipe.)

Gohei: Look! He's enjoying tobacco.

Kinroku: If they were a pair of birds, they might be exposed to public view, though.

Gisuke: How vexing! I can use my eyes only to see and my nose to sniff at them.

Sashichi: Oh, taking advantage of people's eyes to see and noses to sniff, it's a chivalrous lover to display such a scene.

Koito: Will you kindly drink true to your words?

Sashichi: Okay. I've been involved in the matter out of my chivalrous spirit, so I'll try to settle the matter.

Otsuta: Now I'll announce both Sashichi and Koito have become lovers. I'm noted for a match-maker and I'll act as go-between for them.

(Koito drinks and gives the cup to Sashichi, who drinks.)

Kinroku: Hm, now I've lost my temper at the scene.

Gohei: I can't excuse them. My heart is burning, my body is scorching, my head has become benumbed and I feel a headache on the sole.

Gisuke, what shall I do?

Gisuke: Well, you must be patient now.

Gohei: But I'm at a loss what to do.

Sashichi: If there is anything to complain of, I'll speak to anyone. Now, Koito.

Koito: Sashichi-san, I hope you've told me the truth.

Sashichi: Let's get nearer and contract our marriage.

(With a song, Koito takes Sashichi and goes to the room on the left with him.

All the others feel nervous.)

Otsuta: Ha, ha, ha!

It's an old fashioned idea for a woman to marry against her will. You may feel jealous of them as you please.

(With a musical accompaniment, Otsuta leaves laughingly, followed by Onaki.)



Gohei: Pshaw! What an impudent guy!

Gihei: Right you are. I feel unpleasant to think of the inside of that room.

Kinroku: Confound it!

Gisuke: Let's break into that room.

Kinroku: And let's beat him.

Both: Let's do so.

Gohei: Ha, it sounds interesting. I'll help you; I'm a warrior. Look out, everybody!

Both: Okay!

(Both of them tie towels around their heads while Goheita adjusts his clothes.

Both of them step into the room when they are thrown out. Goheita forces his way into the room when Honjo Tsunagoro, a detached warrior, makes his appearance twisting Goheita's hand.)

Gihei and Kinroku: Oh, we've thought there are Koito and Sashichi in the room, though.

Gohei: You're Honjo Tsunagoro.

Tsunago: You see, I'm taking a rest in this room, but why have you stepped in here with violence?

Gohei: Pardon me, but -----.

Tsunago: To say nothing of you, the rude commoners seized me by the breast of my coat with no word. If they don't apologize to me for their rudeness, I'll chastise them.

(Stands up with his sword.)

Both: Ah, pardon us, pardon us.

(Both of them get confused and run off.)

Tsunago: I won't excuse you. ~~That~~

Gohei: Wait, Mr. Honjo.

You're now in exile and in domiciliary confinement,  
you know.

Why do you frequent such a red light district?

Tsunago: Well.

Gohei: Besides, I hardly understand why you wear a pair  
of swords though you're in exile.

Are you going to disobey the Lord's directive?

Tsunago: Well.

Gohei: How will you make an excuse for it?

Tsunago: Well.

Gohei: Answer me.

Tsunago: Well.

Both: Well, well, well.

Gohei: You've thrown down the men at this restaurant  
and don't you think you've acted against the Lord's  
directive of your exile and domiciliary confinement?

Tsunago: Huh? (Seems to be lost in thought.)

Gohei: Ha, anyway you're a detached warrior and especially  
in domiciliary confinement, so you oughtn't visit  
here.

Get out of here. You better get out of here.



Tsunago: Huh?

Gohei: Ha, ha, ha! (Mocks at him.)

Tsunago: (Seems to be vexatious.)

(Just then from the room on the left Sashichi tries to show up when Tsunagoro checks him with the eye.)

Gohei: Well, I'll go to the inner room and drink again.

(With a song, he leaves for the interior.

Both Koito and Sashichi who have changed into other clothes run out.)

Sashichi: How vexing! You wicked warrior!

Hang it! You'll smart for it. (Runs out.)

Tsunago: (Checks him.)

Hey, Sashichi, Sashichi-dono, wait, wait, please wait a moment.

Sashichi: Why do you detain me?

Tsunago: Don't you understand? I've put up with the same inflicted on me for the sake of your father?

Sashichi: Eh? What's the reason for it?

Tsunago: Don't you know, Sashichi-dono? Your real father is Mr. Ishizuka, a retainer of Lord Akagi. I'll tell you. When you were a child, you behaved rudely in presence of the Lord, so your father was obliged to disown you.

However, his favorite merchant Yasunoya Jube looked after you ~~after you~~ and when you grew up, you led a

dissipated life and became a fireman and have been living with your boss at Koishikawa, I hear.

Sashichi: Really! Well, then am I -----?

Tsunago: (Takes a document out of his pocket and hands it to Sashichi.) Just look at this.

Sashichi: (Takes it up and reads it.) Well, well!

Memorandum

As to Ogura's fancy paper I received in trust from the Lord was missing, so I've been investigating its whereabouts. If it's urgently needed, I shall be unable to make an excuse for it and be obliged to commit "harakiri" (disembowel myself)."

Ha, then my real father Ishizuka Yanobe-sama will be obliged to commit harakiri, I'm afraid.

(Gets astonished.)

Tsunago: Although he would have to commit "harakiri", I took the blame upon myself.

Sashichi: What for?

Tsunago: I'll tell you.

My father used to be a footman at the House of Akagi, but through the good offices of your father Yanobe-dono he was promoted to be one of the chief retainers.

I was also promoted to be a page at the recommendation of your father, so how could I put the blame on your father?



Sashichi: Huh?

Tsunago: By the way, unlike your father, you made such a loose conduct just now. You oughtn't have made such a romance out of caprice.

Sashichi: Thank you for your kind advice.

I've unexpectedly made a promise with her to become man and wife.

Koito: We've confessed our mind together and pledged to become man and wife.

Tsunago: Do you mean to say that you'll live together even in the other world?

Koito: Fortune has smiled on my "shamisen".

Sashichi: Now, I'll keep my pride as a chivalrous man.

Tsunago: Well said!

Your father will allow you to marry.

Koito: Your father, eh?

Sashichi: What do you mean by saying that my father will allow us to marry?

(The musical accompaniment changes.)

Tsunago: These swords are your father soul, as it were.

These swords, that is, your father has excused you and admitted your marriage through my intercession, so you ought to look for the missing fancy paper with me.

Koito: I associate with a great many guests as a geisha-girl, so I think I shall be able to get a clue to the investigation.

Sashichi: What I'll give assistance to you will be for the sake of my father just the same, I think.

Tsunago: The matrimonial harmony will contribute to finding out the fancy paper.

Congratulations!

Otsuta: (Comes out with cups.)

I'll act as go-between for them.

(Kinroku comes running, followed by Onaki detaining him.)

Kinroku: Oh, I won't let them exchange nuptial cups.

Onaki: Wait a moment, please.

(They try to take the cups.)

Tsunago: Better than celebration with water.

Koito: Congratulations are as hard as a stone.

Sashichi: Forty to fifty huckle-bones.

(Kinroku strikes at Sashichi, who hurts Kinroku's head with the bottle of rice-wine.)

Koito: Don't do violence, please.

(Koito checks Sashichi.)

Sashichi: Hm, what a lucky rascal! (Swings up the bottle when Kinroku lies flat.

During the struggle, Kinroku drops his pocket-book, which waitress Onaki picks up. Koito and the others detain Sashichi. With Tsukuda music, the sound of a clapping of hands is heard.)



----- Second Act -----

Scene of Yasunaya's Store, Aikawa-cho,  
Fukagawa.

The main stage is three feet square. There is a shop-curtain with the firm-name of Yasunaya written on it under the eaves; there hangs out a sign-board with the letters "Waste-paper, cloth for sacks, tobacco-pouches, etc." written on it; on the left is the entrance; in front there are a cupboard and a dressing-room hung with a shop-curtain. At a proper place Wife Orai places a dresser where she is dressing Koito's hair. On all sides there lie scattered combs. On the pillar at a corner there hangs a waste-paper basket. Apprentice Iwanatsu is sewing a tobacco-pouch at a stand. With a passing sacred dance and music, the curtain rises.

Just then Waitress Omaki of the previous act comes dressed in the fashion of a downtown woman.

Omaki: Excuse me.

Orai: Oh, you're Waitress Omaki-san of Matsumoto.  
You're welcome. Please step in.

Omaki: Well, today I'm in a hurry, so allow me to speak to you here. (Takes a seat) By the way, Koito-san, how are you?

Koito: I'm sorry I've troubled you, but today I feel much better.

Omaki: That's good. Because of your absence, Nikenjaya is very lonesome.

Koito: How sweet of you to say so! Ha, ha, ha!

Omaki: By the bye, what I've called on you today for is to tell you that I've a pocket-book to sell. I should like to go to my native place in a few days, so I want you to buy this pocket-book for the pocket-money.

(Takes out Kinroku's pocket-book of the previous act.)

Orai: Oh, what a fine pocket-book! However, Omaki-san, sorry to say, we don't sell an old pocket-book though we make a pocket-book to one's liking.

Omaki: Really!

Orai: But you've come here all the way and especially you're intimate with us, so I'll keep it and when my husband is free, I may have him sell it for you.

Omaki: Then, please do so.

Orai: Instead, the money for it will pass into your hands a little later than you expect.

Omaki: Never mind! I needn't go to my native place so early.

Orai: Then, I'll take care of it.



Omaki: Please do so. Then, Koito-san, I hope you'll show up again in good spirits.

Koito: Oh, must you go now? Good-bye!  
(With a musical accompaniment, Omaki leaves. Orai puts the pocket-book in a box for combs and again starts dressing Koito's hair. With jazz band, over there palanquin-bearers come hurriedly to the gate carrying a palanquin on their shoulders.)

Palanquin-bearers: Master is back.

Orai: Is he? Thank you for your trouble.  
(Greet the palanquin-bearers. From the palanquin comes out Jube wearing a Japanese coat suitable for a merchant and carrying a muffler, a hood and a towel in his hands. One of the palanquin-bearers takes out his straw-sandals.)

Jube: Well, Palanquin-bearers, thank you for the trouble you have taken.

Palanquin-bearers: Well, then, from tomorrow on shall we not have to come here?

Jube: The medical treatment is over today.

Palanquin-bearer A: Congratulations!

Palanquin-bearer B: Please take good care of yourself.

(The palankeen-bearers carry the palankeen on their shoulders and leave. Jube enters the house. Iwamatsu leaves for the inner room.)

Koito: Are you back, Jube-san? And how are you today?

Jube: Well, I feel swell. The doctors said to me: "Today you'd better apply eye-lotion but from tomorrow on a medical decoction will do you good."

Ah, I've long attended the doctors'.

Koito: Congratulations! As usual in the spring-time again I've had a fit of my chronic disease spasm, I'm afraid.

Orai: Since her hair became long, I trimmed it.

Jube: That's good.

(Just then Honjo Tsunagoro poorly dressed as a detached warrior comes in from the gate.)

Tsunagoro: Is Jube at home?

Koito: Oh, you are Honjo Tsunagoro-sama.

Orai: You are welcome.

Jube: Please step in. (Urges Tsunagoro to take a seat, so Tsunagoro takes his seat.)

Tsuna: Well, Jube, did you get any clue to the lost fancy paper?



Jube: Sorry to say, I've suffered from an eye-trouble about one month and today I've been relieved from the medical treatment. I'm awfully sorry I have been of no use to you.

Tsuna: According to the words of a messenger from the House of Akagi who called on me just now, at the time of Snake on the ninth, that is, tomorrow the Lord will open the warehouse for airing in person. Therefore unless we arrange that fancy paper by the time, to say nothing of me Sashichi-dono's father Ishizuka-dono would also have to disembowel himself for the apology.

Jube: Eh? Well, then, do you mean to say that not only you but also Sashichi-dono's father Ishizuka-dono would have to kill himself unless you could obtain it by the time of Snake for airing on the ninth, that <sup>is</sup> ~~it~~, tomorrow?  
(All of them exchange glances with each other and become dejected.)

Tsuna: Now that it has come to such a pretty pass, there is no help for it. After our death, although you're a merchant, you're greatly indebted to Mr. Ishizuka, so I hope you'll get a clue to the fancy paper and arrest the criminal

and then announce it before our graves.  
This is my request to you in this world.

Jube: Huh?

Tsuna: I'm awfully sorry for you. Although I made a plan to find out the fancy paper successfully and let you and your husband Sashichi go back to his father's house. However, it has turned out to be a transient dream. You married couple could have entered the warrior's mansion, though. It's against my will to let you live in town struggling with poverty, but I hope you will resign yourselves to your fate and live happily together.

Koito: Indeed it's against my will. (Weeps.)

Jube: Although there is a guy I've long suspected, sorry to say, I've no means to detect him.

Tsuna: Whom do you mean by the man you've suspected?

Jube: I'll tell you Yamazumi-dono has left Koito in my care.

Tsuna: (Looks stern to hear the words.) Well, then, do you know Goheita?

Jube: Although I've felt dubious of him, I've had no means to detect him.

Tsuna: Well, I've also thought the guy must be the criminal, I've had no evidence to testify it and spent my days in vain and mortification.



Ah, I wish anyone would dog him like Yujo in Shin and detect him. I'm awfully sorry to think of it. (Gesticulates in mortification.)

Koito: (Seems to be lost in thought.) I'll take the task upon myself.

Tsuna: Really!

Koito: Not only you whom I owe a great deal but also my dear husband's father is involved in the trouble.

How could I remain nonchalant to it?

If I'm persuaded of it and give myself to Goheta-san, a clue to the investigation will be known naturally. Now I'll give up myself as dead and become a victim.

Jube: Well done, Koito! Well said!

Orai: However, are you going to desert Sashichi-san whom you've pledged to marry?

Koito: I'll have to lie together with that hateful and disgusting Goheta only for the future happiness of my beloved man. (Gesticulates.)

Say, Tsunagoro-sama and Jube-sama, if I could obtain the fancy paper successfully, would you surely let us become man and wife?

I should like to hear the oath from you.

Tsuna: Although I'm a detached warrior, if you could obtain any clue to the fancy paper, I would let you lovers become man and wife and let him return to the service of the House of Akagi.

Koito: Really?

Jube: Don't worry! I'm responsible for letting you become his wife.

Koito: If your words are true, I'll wheedle Gohsita out of the fancy paper or get a clue to it.

Jube: Now that you're resolved to do so, when Gisuke will leave you should tell him of it right away and go to the bridegroom Gohsita-sama's Villa at Susaki and lose no time in inquiring into the fancy paper.

Koito: Very well. (Says so, but is in the blues.)

Tsuna: Take courage! (Rises to his feet.) Jube, I'll look forward to a good news.

(With a song, Tsunagoro leaves.)

Jube: I was afraid it would be a serious affair when I heard what Tsunagoro-sama said. However, you made up your mind to take such an important task upon yourself, so I feel as if I were relieved of my burden.

Orai: However, Sashichiedono is reckless by nature, so I'm afraid he might misunderstand her and do a rash act.



Jube: If we should not confess him of it, he wouldn't be persuaded of it, as he's a man of spirit.

Koito: Take it easy! Everything depends on my mind. I hope you'll expect my success without care. (Seems ready for it. With a song, Jube enters the inner room. With a passing sacred dance and music, Yamazumi Goheita, Spy Gisuke and Professional Jester Tasuke come over there with quick steps. following them, Sashichi stealthily comes out covering his cheeks with a towel. Goheita, Giske and Tasuke immediately comes to the main stage.)

Goheita: Is Jube in? (Comes in.)

Jube: Oh, Yamazumi-sama.

Orai: Giske-don and Tasuke-san, you too?

Tasuke: Well, we've had a long spell of fine weather, haven't we? (Steps in.)

Goheita: Oito, I haven't seen you for a long time, but today you look especially beautiful. (Draws up the tobacco-tray. During the time, Sashichi comes to the stage and pries into the inside from the gate.)

Koito: Gracious! By the way, Giske-san and Tasuke-san, it's troublesome for you to come here every day, I think.

Gisuke: Well, at the request of this gentleman  
it's our duty not to let you see Sashichi.

Tasuke: You may think we're ill-natured, but we  
cannot help it. Please don't take it  
amiss.

Goheita: You aren't to blame for it; you needn't  
make an apology to her for it.

Orai: That's right.

Gisuke: But such a duty is -----.

Tasuke: Unsuitable for us, so we are at a loss  
what to do. Ha, ha, ha!  
(Just then Sashichi who has been overhearing  
a their conversation at the gate opens it  
and steps in.)

Sashichi: Excuse me!

Go: Oh, you are.

Gisuke: Fireman Sashichi-don.

(Just at the moment Orai hides Koito with  
a screen at hand.)

Sa: Here, here, Orai-san, you needn't hide her.  
No wonder you haven't let me see her on  
the pretext of illness. I've thought it  
suspicious, though. Now I see. You must  
have been bribed into silence by this  
warrior. What a greedy woman! I guess  
you're going to side with him. All right,  
since I've made love to Oito, I won't let



let you hide her. I wonder why she keeps silent.  
Say, Oito! (Is about to go beside the screen  
when Gisuke and Tasuke detains him.)

Goheita: Wait! I've some business with you.

Sashichi: Shut up, silly warrior! Get out of my way!  
(Disengages himself from Gisuke's grasp and  
goes on when Orai stands in his way.)

Orai: Wait, Sashichi-san! Even if you're familiar  
with us, you shouldn't step in without leave.  
Behave yourself I'll admit Oito-san is in  
this house, but we've been asked by this gentle-  
man to look after her. Although we know your  
relation to her, my husband will be unable  
to keep his promise with Goheita-sama if I  
let you see her.  
That's why I shan't be able to have you see her.  
Now go home, please.

Sa: Nope, I won't go home. Now there is no diff-  
erence between the enemy's house and that of  
my parents. Even if you insist on prohibiting  
me from seeing her, I must see her. Get out  
of my way.

Gohe: Don't do violence.

Gisuke: Say, Sashichi-don. (With the parting words,  
Gisuke detains Sashichi.

The three men have a scuffle and turn the screen

in which Oito is smoking tobacco.)

Sa: Oito, why do you keep silent? Now, come along!

(Tries to take Oito with him.)

Koito: Where are you going to take me?

Sa: Of course I'll take you with me there as you wish and let you become my wife so as to foil any man. Now, come along. (Holds her hand and takes her when Koito shakes herself free from his grasp.)

Koito: Nonsense!

Sa: Eh?

Koito: Sashichi-san, I'll tell you I'm no more a geisha-girl. Thanks to Goheita-san, I'll wash my hands off the shameful life and become his wife. Don't talk nonsense! I'll never go with you.

Sa: Darn it! It's unlike you to say such a thing. Don't irritate me so much in public. You see, you are among the enemies; you oughtn't to stay in such an unpleasant place. Now, don't irritate me, but stand up.

Koito: I won't. (Turns to Sashichi.) Sashichi-san, although I've become your sweetheart out of caprice, now I'll break off with you. Do you understand?

Sa: Eh?



- Koito:** Sure thing! Gisuke-don, you see, Goheita-san has ransomed me with such a large sum of money as one hundred and fifty "ryo". He is by no means handsome, but I've fallen in love with him/ for his generosity.
- Gohei:** Eh? (Seems to be in thought.)
- Orai:** She says she would rather like to live with him than stay here and troubles me.
- Gisuke:** If it's true, you're fortunate. But I wonder why she has changed her mind so suddenly though she didn't allow Goheita-sama to get near her.
- Tasuke:** Indeed a woman is apt to yield to money and patience.
- Gohei:** Shut up!
- Gisuke & Tasuke:** So sorry. (Prostrate themselves.)
- Sachichi:** (After much consideration.) Hm, although I thought what you've said up to now was under the influence of liquor, Koito, have you really changed your mind?  
(Koito pretends ignorance.)
- Orai:** Excuse me, but money is everything in this world. You/ see, money makes the mare go.
- Sa:** Well, Koito, although I thought you were going to utilize this warrior for money, have you really made up your mind to do so?

Koito: You're really proud of yourself. I'll admit at first I hated Goheita-san, but since he loves me from the bottom of his heart, he paid one hundred and fifty "ryo" for me in these hard times and secured my liberty, so I appreciate his sincerity.

Sa: Are you goin' to abandon me?

Koito: Now that I've a mind to abandon you, I haven't seen you by hiding myself though you've called on me recently, have I?

Have you any sense? You've again called on me in spite of my change of mind, so I've grown out of love with you more and more. If I marry Goheita-san, I'll be able to live at ease as his lady. However, if I become your wife, I'll have to wear an apron and live in a tenement-house. As the words of the Shioraibushi song, a woman says she is happy to marry a poor man of her heart, but in fact she wishes to marry a rich man so as to live in comfort. It's likely that I prefer a rich man to a poor one.

Sa: Huh?

Gohei: Well, then, has Koito really ----?

Gisuke: Have you really grown out of love with Sashichi?



Koito: Yeah. How could I grow out of love with him falsely?

Sashichi: What? (Looks stern and is in deep thought.)  
Say, Koito, you're ungrateful. I'll never forget at Fukagawa you and I happened to become acquainted with each other and pledged to marry.

Thanks to Tsunagoro-san, that night I shared a bed with you. Without sounding his profound mind, you're falling into the pitfall at Sasaki.

Although you're engaged in a geisha's business of trickery, you've completely changed your mind, I think. It isn't your white thin neck, but your wicked heart affected with gold that I hate. I wonder why Yama won't take notice of you. Which do you prefer, Paradise or Hades? No wonder you can't nod. Remember that you need obligations in love-making.

Koito: Well, I know the obligations and kindness. However, I shall have to act against the kind man's mind. I may be criticized as an ungrateful woman lacking in obligations, I'll have to resign myself to my fate.

I'm just like a cuckoo singing as if vomiting blood. From Mukojima I'll have to go to the villa at Susaki.

Both the shallows and the vicissitudes of life will undergo a change like the River Tobutori. As the water is pure, so is one's chastity. I hope you'll enter into my feelings.

Although you may be angry with me, Sashichi-san, I want you to let me share a bed with the big shot and to lead a single life for the time being.

Sashichi: Huh?

Gohci: You see, everybody, like a tumbler on the shelf he was in the seventh heaven of delight when she was saying pretty things to him without knowing that she had changed her mind and while he believed she spoke the truth, he came to know that he was jilted by her. What a silly guy! Ah, he's nothing but a simpleton.

Gisuke & Tasuke: Ha, ha, ha!

Sashichi: Huh, hang it! You brutes!

Gisuke: Here, here, even if you feel mortified, your sweetheart has already turned her back on you.



Tasuke: The shot went wild. You'd better give her up.

Gi: No wonder she doesn't want to live a poor life with you by frequenting a pawn-broker's shop and getting rice little by little as well as rice-wine, because she could marry a rich man.

Ta: Instead, if she becomes Yamazumi-sama's wife, when she wants to have new clothes made she'll be able to go to the Mitsukoshi department-store and when she wants to see plays, she'll be able to go to the Tokyo Theater; ~~she'll~~ she'll be able to do anything she wants.

Gi: When she thinks of it, it's up to date for her to change her mind.

Ta: Although you're angry with her, you better put up with it.

Gi: Money is everything and the poor's enemy in this world, you know.

Sashichi: I've heard you enough. (Stands up with a board.)

Gi: Hey, don't.

Ta: Oh, what are you going to do with it?

Sashichi: Of course I'll strike her to death and die myself. Don't stand in my way. (Thrusts both of them away and gets near Koito when Oisuke stops him.

Meanwhile, Orai harbours Koito.)

Gohei: Don't do violence, you rascal!

Sa: Shut up.

Orai: Look out, Oito-san!

Gisuke & Tasuke: Get out of here!

(Grab at Sashichi when he throws them down.

On the other hand, from the inner room comes out Jube.)

Sa: Now come on, silly woman!

Jube: (Stops Sashichi.)

Wait, Sashichi-san!

Sa: Get out of my way.

Jube: Here, here, I'm Jube.

(Says sternly.)

Sa: Jube-dono, don't stand in my way.

Jube: Tut, tut! This is my house, you know. What's the matter? Be quiet. (Soothes Sashichi.)

Sa: Jube-dono, please listen to me.

Jube: Well, I know what you're goin' to tell me.

I've pretended to be asleep, for I thought you would be sorry if I had come out.

Although you've made a firm promise with Oito-dono, she has deserted you and made up her mind to marry Goheita-sama.

I guess she has some reason for it. Since she is in her master's service, she cannot do as we wish.



Besides, needless to say, she has an ambition as well as other women in this world. If you kill her out of mortification, you'll give out your scandals; you'd better break off with her. You might be united with her again, though.

Apart from it, it's good for you to give her up and it's also good for her.

Sashichi-san, be a man! Behave manfully!

Sa: I won't behave manfully. I ought to obey the advice of you, as I owe you a great deal, but if I let matters take their course, I'll be put out of countenance.

Jube: Well, you'll be able to save your face again some day, I can assure you.

(Meanwhile, Keito is smoking tobacco.)

Keito: Excuse me, Jube-san, but don't talk to him any more. Whatever he says, unless I marry Goheita-san, I'll cherish an unrequited love and hafta drink rice-wine. Don't you think so, Goheita-san?

Goheita: Sure thing! But when did you come to love me? (Feels nonplussed.)

Keito: I'll tell you I didn't love him so much. A geisha-girl should ~~be~~ have a lover~~y~~ only temporarily just like dressing her hair.

Sa: From your words, you must have made game of me from the first.

Koito: I've only thought you've weakness for women.

Sa: Darn it! You fickle woman, you'll smart for it. (Strikes at Oito and knocks her down. Jube, Tasuke and Orai takes her from him. Gisuke nurses Koito, who nestles closer to Geheita.)

Jube: Here, here, you mustn't do violence. If you have anything to complain of, you'd better come here tomorrow and say bitter things to me.

Now, I'll thank you for today's trouble.

Orai: Now, now, Sashichi-san, please leave here, leave here.

Sa: Of course I'll go. Even if you ask me, I won't stay here any longer.

Say, Koito, shame on you!

(Says in a faltering voice.)

Gi: Shut up! (Rises to his feet.)

Ta: Don't cross this threshold again. (Chuoks him out.)

Sa: (Falls totteringly when he touches a cup and takes it up) You adulteress!

Throws it at Koito. All of them keep silent for a while.)

Koito: He has gone mad, I think. Ha, ha, ha!



(Tasuke strikes at Sashichi, who throws him away.)

Sa: I'll remember.

(Leaves. Oito seems to be lost in thought. Tasuke stands up.)

Ta: Confound it!

Orai: Oito-san, now you feel swell, don't you?

Koite: Yeah.

Gohei: I also feel ~~of~~ swell; I'm relieved ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> my burden. Well, Koite, I'll precede you and wait for you at the villa of Susaki, you'd better come with Gisuke later on, you see.

Keito: I see.

Goheita: Tonight I'll lie with you comfortably.

Koite: Then I'll have a lot of talk with you.

(With a song, Goheita makes a sign with the eye to Gisuke and stands up and then comes to the gate.)

Tohei: Jube.

Jube: Yes.

Gohei: Thank you for the trouble you~~x~~ have taken.  
(Smiles and goes away with Tasuke.)

Orai: I feared what might befall us, though.

Jube: Now I feel at ease.

Orai: Thank you for your trouble, Gisuke-dono.

Gisuke: However, Oito-san, it's admirable that you've broken off with him without regret. Goheita-sama went home smilingly. Ha, ha, ha!

- Koito: I'm by no means admirable. I've done so for my sake. (Has a fit of spasm.)
- Orai: Oito-san, are you suffering from a fit of spasm again?
- Jube: Take courage! When you're resolved to do something, you're apt to have a fit of spasm. In such a case you'd better drink a few cups of hot rice-wine.
- Orai: That's a good idea. Gisuke-san, will you have a drink?
- Gisuke: With pleasure. Till the palankeen-bearers come I'll drink together with her.
- Jube: Orai, you'd better cook a tangle and a cod for them.
- Orai: Very well. Now, Oito-san.  
(Oito is still lost in thought. Orai is unable to remain a mere spectator.)
- Orai: What's the matter? I wonder if there is pepper.  
(The bell of the time rings. With a passing sacred dance and music palanquin-bearers come over there carrying a palankeen on their shoulder. Sashichi covering his cheeks with the towel dog them.)
- Palanquin-bearer A: Are you Takanoya Jube-sama?
- Palanquin-bearer B: We've brought the palankeen to take her to Susaki.



Jube: Thank you for your trouble. Oito-san, here is the palankeen to take you there.

Koito: I see.  
(Hearing her words, Sashichi hides himself to the left.)

Koito: Well, then, Orai-san, I must be going now.

Orai: Even if I'm intimate with you, it'll be funny for me to call on you tonight, so I'll go there to congratulate you tomorrow.

Koito: You better do so. Jube-san, thank you for your kindness; please intercede him, no, Goheita-san for me.

Jube: Don't worry. If Goheita-san comes here tomorrow, I'll ask him to take care of you and tell him of your mind. I hope you won't be taken ill owing to trifles.

Koito: I'm only anxious about it.

Gisuke: Don't be silly! Goheita-san depends on you.

Orai: Now, now, get into the palankeen, (Helps Oito get into the palankeen.)

Gisuke: Good-bye.

Jube: Gisuke-don, thank you for your trouble. Oito-san, in a few days I'll let you know how things stand here.

Oito: Please understand this reason, Orai-san.

Orai: (Nods.)  
Thank you very much, palankeen-bearers.

Koito: Ah, I feel impatient.

(Puts her sleeve on the face with one hand so as to keep back her tears and lowers the blind with the other hand.)

Gisuke: Now, go on!

(The bell of the time rings. Gisuke leads the way with a lighted paper lantern; the palankeen goes away. Orai sees them off and bolts the gate. From the left Sashichi comes out and from his pocket takes out a new kitchen-knife; he covers the knife with a towel and carries it at side in deep thought; he becomes barefooted and following the palankeen hurriedly goes over there.)

Jube: (Puts the things around him in order.)

Orai: Oh, I ought to have given her at least combs and toilet articles.

Jube: Heavens! She'll be put to inconvenience without them.

Orai, call Iwamatsu and let him bring them there.

Orai: Okay, I'll ask Iwamatsu to do so. Say, Iwamatsu, Iwamatsu.

(Leaves for the inner room. Jube arranges the box for combs and false hair when he finds out the pocket-book.)



- Jube: Oh, this is a pocket-vifj, (Takes waste paper out of it.) I wonder whose this is. (Holds it to the light.) To Sakakibara Sagoro-dono I'll give this in pawn. I own the Ogura's fancy paper and I'll pawn it for two hundred "ryo". I hereby certify that nobody will object to it. Yamazumi Goheita I'm glad I've known the whereabouts of the fancy paper.
- Orai: (Comes out.) Have you known the whereabouts of the fancy paper?
- Jube: I wonder why this has been in the box for combs.
- Orai: That's the article Matsumoto's Waitress Omaki-don left wanting you to sell it.
- Jube: At the foot of the candle, it's dark. You're illiterate while I've an eye-trouble. Oito-dono has gone without knowing the evidence in this house.
- Orai: Now tell the good news to Tsunagoro-sama right away.
- Jube: Ha, I'll go and tell him of the good news. (The sound of the wooden clappers is heard. Jube tucks up his clothes. The bell of the time rings. With a musical accompaniment, the stage-settings revolve.)

----- LAST SCENE -----

On the right is the foot of the bridge; on the left there are a street lamp and a willow outstretching its branches from the awning.

The stage represents Enma Bridge, Fukagawa.

The bell of the time rings. With the sound of footsteps, Sashichi comes running and at once comes to the main stage.

Sashichi: At Juniken, they disappeared, but that paper

lantern must be that of Koito's palankeen.

It's still spring, but I'm disgusted with her.

Her mind is as changeable as autumnal weather.

Here is Enma (Yama) Bridge. I'll let her cross the River Styx from the dyke before I leave this world.

(He is lost in thought and hides himself at the foot of the bridge.

With Tsukuda music, Sasuke and the palankeen-bearers carrying the palankeen come to the main stage. Sasuke comes out and cuts off the paper lantern.)

Palankeen-bearers: What a rash guy! (Notice his kitchen-knife and get astonished and then they run off leaving the palankeen behind.)



Gisuke: Mu ----- murder, murder! (Shouts in a trembling voice, so Sashichi swings up the kitchen-knife at random. Gisuke runs off.

Just then from the palankeen Oito's voice is heard.)

Oito: Are you Sashichi-san? (Comes out.)

Sashichi: Hang it!

You shall die. (Strikes at Oito. Both of them have a rough-tumble with each other and pose sternly.)

Oito: I've got a reason for it. Please wait, wait.

Sashichi: I won't listen to you at this moment; you should die without resistance.

Oito: Wait, wait!

(Again they struggle with each other violently. Over there Tsunagoro comes running.)

Tsunagoro: Wait, Sashichi. Wait, wait. I say, you must wait. (Separates them from each other.)

Sashichi: Oh, Honjo Tsunagoro-san, why do you stop me?

Tsunagoro: It doesn't pay to be short-tempered; I must stop you. You ought to step back and listen to me, as I'll tell you of the reason.

(Tsunagoro protects Koito and thrusts Sashichi down to the left. The musical accompaniment starts.)

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Tsunagoro: Today Koito showed a cold attitude toward you, so no wonder you're angry with her as you're a man

of spirit. However, she did so as a plot to create dissension among the enemy and fulfil the important mission.

Sashichi: What?

Tsunagoro: I'll tell you recently we have cast suspicion on Yamazumi Goheita, so we've planned to let her get near him and hold an actual proof. It's such an important plot, you see.

Sashichi: Hm.

Tsunagoro: By the way, just now at Yasunoya's this paper was found out from the pocket-book that Sugimoto's waitress brought. This is the very receipt for that fancy paper Yamazumi Goheita has pawned. Now that we have this evidence, Goheita is the very criminal and will be easily charged with the crime. Sashichi, you'll be delighted time has come for your father to be released from domiciliary confinement.

Sashichi: Hn, um.

Tsunagoro: Anyway Koito is worthy of admiration.

Although she is of humble birth, she has got over the hard trial before her dear husband and admirably determined to go to Goheita's mansion so as to carry out her mission.

Sashichi: Well, then, I understand Koito has pretended to get disgusted with me against her will and was going to Goheita's mansion to investigate Ogura's fancy paper.



Hum, um. (Seems to be in deep thought.)

Koito: Sashichi-san, I'm sure you've got angry with me.  
Pardon me.

I couldn't tell you of the reason, for it was a serious matter having to do with your father's life and that of Tsunagoro-san we've owed a great deal. I took the task upon myself and was going to his house for the purpose. However, you couldn't understand the figure of my speech though I suggested it to you with the eye, but you used the edged tool to settle it.

You're too short-tempered, I should say.

Tsunagoro: If I had arrived here a little late, you two would have crossed the River Styx and joined the majority.

Koito: We've really escaped from death by a hairbreadth.  
(The bell of the time rings.)

Sashichi: Oh, that's the bell announcing the fourth time at the Hachiman Shrine.

Tsunagoro: Now we have no time to lose.

Koito: Let's redeem the fancy paper out of pawn.

Sashichi: And I'll be dutiful to my father.

Tsunagoro: He'll be reinstated in the service then.

Koito: Your success in life and -----

Sashichi: Our conjugal harmony.

Tsunagoro: Will last till the other world, I hope.

Koito: What an auspicious day!

Sashichi: Let's pledge to become man and wife, Koito.

Koito: Sashichi-san.

(The sound of the wooden clappers is heard.)

Tsunagoro: Now.

(They pose.

The manager comes out and says: "Today's performance  
is over."

The sound of the wooden clappers lasts.)

----- CURTAIN -----

June 10th, 1947

----- Postscript -----

I've dramatized this play by extracting only the romance of Koito and Sashichi from one of the masterpieces of the late Mr. Nambokuo "Shinmeikaishokushi" (Solution to the Riddles) composed of seven acts and nineteen scenes and getting my ideas in shape.

Needless to say, it was considerably painstaking for me to take this play out of the long play, so I created half of it, which I am ashamed to say is unnatural in some respects. I should be pleased if you would make up for the defects by means of execution.



- 6 -

As to the presentation of this play, I hope it will  
be old-fashioned and yet exceedingly romantic.

( Dramatizer )